4/9/77

Dear Paul,

Your 4/4 and the check were a fine birthday present. Many thanks. Lil has sent it to our local bank and sent a check to the Washington bank for it so that Jim can draw on it.

Aside from $200 Howard contributed from an honorarium Jim and I arranged for him you are the only one who had helped with these heavy expenses. There is nothing in this for either of us. After Post Mortem it is obvious I will not be doing that kind of book again. The self-promoters will be ripping this off as their own work and getting money for person uses based on that when we give it away, whatever we get. I did give the initial yield away as soon as I obtained it. But they all talk big, take whatever they can latch onto and we carry the load alone, except for you. It not only helps because it is a load, it helps because you care.

Lil has been making regular transfers to this Jim account. This was possible only because we sold the small Hyattstown property, Jim thinks being gypped by the county, which took it by condemnation. Of course it is no fun using the little security we had this way but on the other hand it is good to be able to do it.

We have gone farthur. I don't know if I mentioned it before but the cost of the xeroxing alone has been enormous. In the past year, not counting the labor, I've paid for a machine without having one. So we decided to get one with this money from the property because it would still be free after a year or so and would in some ways be convenient when Lil is not doing taxes. It will also speed her up in tax season next year very much, enablin her to either do more or take less time with the same volume. Meanwhile, the cost of just the paper she used in copies this year is about 7-8% of the cost of a faster machine that uses plain paper. So I shopped around by phone and got a good deal on a good machine, only it was not in stock. The company is in the next town west of here, Hagerstown. The offered the free use of the demonstrator until the new machine came. We agreed. On the way here coming off a mountain cloverleaf the guy turned the machine over. He forgot to strap it down. It stopped working as soon as it was working. He was so embarrassed he let us have another machine, which uses a special paper, free until the one we are getting comes in. With all I have to copy in the Min case this will be a fine gift. Only Lil has another hard week of tax work ahead and can't do the copying and I have too much I can t get to so I cant justify the time. But I'd be getting at least 2,500 free copies. I'll try to get a college kid on Monday.

Your thoughts are in the righ t direction when you speak of agency disinformation but the real situation is much worse. The committee is doing it to itself. The agencies did a little back in November and have not had to since. All of this is the committee's listening to all the nuts. I've enclosed a smaple thanks to Howard and the copier.

O'Neill: right. He was talking about Powers and O'Donnell, but he does not have any meaning, just suspicion and he is going on that alone, without direction.

Little Lord Fauntroy is no more trustworthy than you say and Stokes is in the same low class, alas.

Jim is visiting his folks this week, at the same time taking the sister-in-law and his and her kids on a little trip. We have clear weather for a chnage but with record-breaking cold. Pleasant, though, and I'm able to save on the fuel-oil bill by heating us with the fireplace. Imagine that at Easter! But I've enough now to last as long as the coolness will. And it is a little light exercise, makes me get up and move around.

Again our thanks,

Soncerely,